

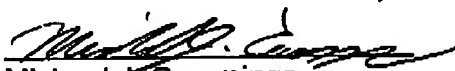
Application No. 10/004,044  
Docket No. F-249

**Remarks**

Claims 3-11 are pending in the application. In the Office Action mailed on December 11, 2003, the Examiner indicated that claims 5-11 were allowable, and that claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if put into independent form. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected in view of an asserted prior art reference.

This amendment cancels rejected claims 1 and 2, and amends claim 3 to be in independent form (claim 4 now depends from independent claim 3). Claim 10 is also amended to add a period. Accordingly, all remaining claims are now in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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